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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Mondragon-Parra et al. )  
Serial No.: 10/730,309 ) Group Art Unit: 3679  
Filed: December 8, 2003 ) Examiner: Dunwoody, Aaron M.  
Title: CROSS-STRAIGHT GROOVE JOINT ) Confirmation No.: 2196  
Attorney Docket No.: DP-309838 )

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated September 14, 2006, received in the above application, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections of dependent Claims 2 and 22 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.